

U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 10/538,124
Attorney Docket No. 10191/3806
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2008

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached New sheet of drawings including Figure 3 is submitted in response to the objection to the drawings as detailed in the Office Action. No new matter has been added. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Attachment: one (1) New sheet

REMARKS

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 11 and the addition of new claims 21 to 23, claims 12 to 23 are pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 10 were previously canceled.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

As regards the objection to the Drawings, while Applicants do not agree with the merits of this objection, to facilitate matters, Figure 3 has been added herein to illustrate an exhaust gas system, thereby rendering moot the present objection. The Specification has been amended to refer to Figure 3. Withdrawal of the present objection is therefore respectfully requested.

As regards the rejection of claims 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, claims 17 and 20 have been amended herein without prejudice, thereby obviating the present rejection. Withdrawal of this indefiniteness rejection of claims 17 and 20 is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 15 to 17 include allowable subject matter. While the Office Action indicates that claim 13 also includes allowable subject matter, it appears that the Office Action intended to refer instead to claim 12, since claim 12 has not been rejected on any grounds.

In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 12 has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include all of the features of its base claim. The Examiner will further note that claim 15, from which claims 16 and 17 depend, has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claim. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 13, 18, and 19 has been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 13, 14, and 18 to 20 depend from claim 12. Accordingly, claims 12 to 20 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claim has been canceled herein without prejudice, so as to obviate the remaining rejections.

New claims 21 to 23 have been added herein. Claims 21 to 23 do not add new matter and are supported by the present application, including the specification, as originally

filed. Claims 21 to 23 ultimately depend from claim 15 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims 12 to 23 are allowable.


Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 12 to 23 are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /  / (Reg. No. 59,210) for:
Gerard A. Messina
(Reg. No. 35,952)

KENYON & KENYON LLP
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200

CUSTOMER NO. 26646